

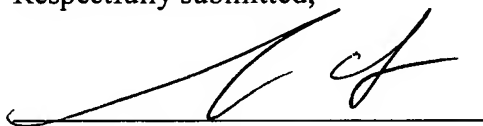
REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is being made upon entry of International Application No. PCT/EP2004/002864 into the U.S. National Phase of prosecution.

In preparing this application for entry into the national stage, headings have been added and several minor typographical errors or inconsistencies in terminology have been corrected by amendment. The claims 1-17 contained in International Publication have also been amended so that their form is consistent with US practice and to remove the multiple dependencies and inconsistencies. No new matter has been added. An abstract is also added.

Examination of the application and substantive action is requested. If the Examiner believes it would be helpful to discuss any aspect of this application to advance prosecution, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SA' or similar, written over a horizontal line.

Salvatore Anastasi
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 39,090
Telephone No.: 610.722.3899
Facsimile No.: 610.889-3696
PTO Customer No.: 29450